

Message Text

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PASS AID, USDA

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, AORG

SUBJECT: FAO'S FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

1. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE AND STRESS THE FAO AND ITS DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA HAVE RECENTLY PLACED ON THE FAO'S FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (FSAS), FODAG IS REPORTING A PRESS RELEASE PUT OUT BY FAO ON FSAS. THE SIZE OF THE SCHEME WITH VOLUNTARY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE OF DOL. 20.8 MILLION AND THE "REQUIREMENT" FOR AN ADDITIONAL DOL. 35 MILLION ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN CONSIDERING THE FAO'S FUTURE PROGRAMS AND BUDGET.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE GEARED TO ACHIEVING NATIONAL OR REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY ARE FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE AND FORESEEABLE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION'S FOOD SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (FSAS), ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO, WHICH HAS JUST MADE ITS FIRST BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE SCHEME.

THE WORK DONE DURING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE SCHEME'S
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EXISTENCE AND ITS OBJECTIVES WERE CONSIDERED USEFUL AND VALID, BUT ALL GOVERNMENTS IN A POSITION TO DO SO WERE URGED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, EITHER MULTILATERALLY THROUGH FAO OR BILATERALLY.

"THE PROMOTION OF FOOD SECURITY DESERVES HIGH PRIORITY AMONGST THE OBJECTIVES OF FOOD AID", SAID EDOUARD SAOUMA,

THE DG OF FAO, IN THIS RESPECT. IN RESPONSE TO HIS RECENT APPEAL TO DONORS TO STEP UP CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEME, A NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN OR INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, IF POSSIBLE ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE SCHEME, THUS TO RENDER ITS OPERATIONS MORE FLEXIBLE AND WIDEN THE GEOGRAPHICAL RANGE OF ITS ACTIVITIES. BILATERAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAME BASIC OBJECTIVES WERE DESCRIBED BY THE COMMITTEE AS USEFUL IN COMBINATION WITH THE SCHEME'S OWN RESOURCES.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHEME NOW TOTAL DOL. 20.8 MILLION, OF WHICH DOL. 16.9 MILLION IS COMMITTED TO 11 PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, INDONESIA, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA, TANZANIA AND UPPER VOLTA WITH ADDITIONAL PROJECTS TO START SOON IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ECUADOR, GUINEA BISSAU, HAITI AND MAURITANIA. BUT OTHER PROJECTS UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF PREPARATION REQUIRE DOL. 35 MILLION FOR FINANCING, WHICH SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN SECURED.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SUCH AS FOOD AID FROM BILATERAL SOURCES AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM, AND LOCAL CURRENCY PROCEEDS FROM FOOD AID OR AGRICULTURAL INPUT SALES, ARE BEING MOBILIZED TO SUPPLEMENT THE SCHEME'S OWN LIMITED FUNDS.

AMONG THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME TWO DIFFERENT
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TYPES OF ACTION CAN BE NOTED: THE PROJECT WORK IN DEVELOPING STORAGE CAPACITY FOR GRAINS, RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND STOCKING OPERATIONS; AND THE ADVISORY AND COORDINATING FUNCTIONS OF HELPING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES--MOST OF THEM IN THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA) CATEGORY-- TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL FOOD SECURITY POLICIES.
END TEXT.GARDNER

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